

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**List of claims:**

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9, wherein said paper is newspaper waste.

3. (Currently Amended): The rubber composition according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9, further comprising from 10 to 100 parts by weight of carbon black relative to 100 parts by weight of the rubber component, said carbon black having a specific surface area by nitrogen adsorption (BET method) of from 40 to 160 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a DBP adsorption of from 70 to 130 ml/100g and an iodine adsorption value of 70 to 130 mg/g.

Claims 4-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended): The rubber composition for a tire tread according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 9, further comprising a silane coupling agent.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended): A rubber composition for a tire tread comprising from 0.5 to 12 parts by weight of paper, from 5 to 100 parts by weight of silica, ~~and~~ from 2 to 15 parts by weight of short fiber and from 3 to 15 parts by weight of a powder product containing a cellulose material relative to 100 parts by weight of a rubber component, said paper being cut into pieces having a width of 5 mm or less and said silica having a specific surface area by nitrogen adsorption (BET) of 50 to 350 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented): A pneumatic tire comprising the rubber composition for a tire tread according to claim 9 also disposed in a bead apex.

Claims 12-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The rubber composition for a tire tread according to claim 9 wherein the paper is ~~in~~ processed via a muddy state of low concentration containing 3% or less of a solid component.